

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPIC-06 INT-05 NRC-07 PA-02 SOE-02
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, EMIN, MO
SUBJECT: US/MOROCCAN COOPERATION IN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT: PROPOSED GOM
SEMINAR ON PETROLEUM PROSPECTION

DOE FOR SIEVERING

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR AID

REF: STATE 133533

1. EMBASSY RECENTLY RECEIVED LETTER FROM BRPM (GOM'S MINERALS
EXPLORATION AND HOLDING COMPANY) DIRECTOR GENERAL ABDERRAFIH
GUESSOUS, CONFIRMING GOM DESIRE TO HOLD PETROLEUM PROSPECTION
SEMINAR IN NEW YORK (PREFERABLY IN LATE SEPTEMBER) AND
REQUESTING SUGGESTIONS WHICH WOULD INSURE SUCCESS OF PROJECT.
SINCE LETTER PROVIDED USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK INFO
REQUESTED REFTEL, E/C COUNSELOR CALLED ON BRPM SEC GEN DIOURI
(GUESSOUS WAS ABSENT) WHO MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:
-BRPM AND ENERGY MINISTRY HAD REACHED CONCLUSION DURING
SAADI'S RECENT VISIT TO U.S. THAT A SEMINAR IN NEW YORK WOULD BE
BEST WAY TO MAKE AMERICAN PETROLEUM PROSPECTORS AWARE OF
VARIED MOROCCAN GEOLOGY, LATEST GOM THINKING ON
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POSSIBILITIES FOR LOCATING PETROLEUM (ESPECIALLY
IN RIF) AND SPELLING OUT SPECIFIC PROSPECTING
OPPORTUNITIES WHICH GOM WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH
OIL COMPANIES.
-SEMINAR WOULD LAST ONE FULL DAY, WITH SECOND DAY
DEVOTED TO BILATERALS BETWEEN BRPM OFFICIALS AND
INTERESTED COMPANIES.

- SEMINAR PROGRAM WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

MORNING: -- WELCOMING REMARKS;

-REVIEW OF MOROCCO'S GEOLOGY;

-- FILM ON ABOVE;

-MOROCCO'S PETROLEUM OBJECTIVES;

-GENERAL DISCUSSION.

AFTERNOON: - ADMINISTRATIVE, PROCEDURAL AND

JURIDICAL ASPECTS OF CONDUCTING

PETROLEUM PROSPECTION IN MOROCCO;

-- GENERAL DISCUSSION.

-MOROCCAN GROUP WOULD BE HEADED BY GUESSOUS AND

DIOURI, ACCOMPANIED BY TEN TO TWELVE BRPM

TECHNICAL PERSONNEL. BRPM WOULD PAY ALL COSTS

OF SEMINAR AND MOROCCAN PARTICIPANTS.

-DIOURI HAD PRIVATE INFORMATION TO THE EFFECT

THAT END SEPTEMBER WOULD BE BEST TIME IN NEW YORK

FOR SEMINAR, BUT WAS OPEN TO ALTERNATIVE

SUGGESTIONS (COMMENT: WE SUSPECT SEMINAR WOULD BE

PART OF BROADER US TRIP BRPM GROUP CONTEMPLATING

AT THIS TIME).

-BRPM HOPED TO INVITE ABOUT TWENTY FIVE US

COMPANIES, HOPING THAT AROUND EIGHTEEN TO TWENTY

WOULD ACCEPT AND AN AUDIENCE OF FIFTY WOULD

PARTICIPATE. BRPM WOULD ALSO INVITE DOE, USGS,

BUMINES AND ANY OTHER USG OFFICIALS WE MIGHT

SUGGEST.

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- BRPM WOULD SEND INVITATIONS TO MOST U.S.

PETROLEUM MAJORS, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ON

WHICH SMALLER U.S. PROSPECTING COMPANIES SHOULD

BE INVITED. SMALLER COMPANIES MIGHT WELL BE MOST

INTERESTED IN RIF AREA. DIOURI CONFESSED BRPM

HAD LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN PUTTING TOGETHER

PROJECT SUCH AS PROPOSED SEMINAR AND WOULD

APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE WE COULD OFFER ON HOW BEST

TO PUT IT TOGETHER.

2. E/C COUNSELOR SAID THAT DR. HEWITT WOULD PROBABLY

BE HAPPY TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS, AND OFFERED FURTHER

THOUGHT THAT BCIU IN NEW YORK WOULD APPEAR IDEAL

ENTITY TO DO CONTACT WORK WITH U.S.COMPANIES

LOCATE APPROPRIATE SPACES FOR SEMINAR, AND PROVIDE

GENERAL BACKSTOPPING.

3. COMMENT:SEEMS TO US THAT IF JOHN HABBERTON

OF BCIU WILLING EASIEST WAY TO LAUNCH SEMINAR

WOULD BE TO PUT BRPM IN CONTACT DIRECTLY WITH

BCIU AND LET BOTH PARTIES WORK OUT PROJECT TOGETHER.

IF DEPARTMENT AGREES, SUGGEST IT CONTACT HEWITT

AND HABBERTON AND LET US KNOW RESULTS. DOE MIGHT

ALSO CONSIDER INVITING GROUP TO WASHINGTON FOR FOLLOW-UP

DISCUSSIONS. END COMMENT.ANDERSON

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